

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 707 is a structured rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 4755, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 2005. It is a fair and appropriate rule and should be approved by the House so we can move on to consideration of the underlying legislation.

H. Res. 707 provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The resolution waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. It also provides that the bill shall be considered as read.

H. Res. 707 waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule 21, which prohibits unauthorized appropriations or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill.

The rule makes in order only those amendments put in the Committee on Rules report accompanying this resolution. H. Res. 707 provides that the amendments printed in the report may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report.

Finally, H. Res. 707 provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my friend and colleague from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), the chairman of the subcommittee. He has worked very closely with his ranking minority member, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN of Virginia), in crafting this bill, and for that he deserves our support. This appropriations bill is one of the more challenging bills to manage, and he does so with respect to the institution in which we all serve.

I do want to specifically note that this is a fiscally responsible bill, and I commend the gentleman from Georgia's (Chairman KINGSTON) management oversight that will certainly ensure that organizational changes are managed better within the agencies of the legislative branch of government.

Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for a fair amendment process for consideration of the legislative branch appropriations bill. I urge my colleagues to support the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I was shocked to learn that House committee was sending mail into the committee members' districts. During yesterday's Committee on Rules hearing on the appropriations bill for the legislative branch, we learned that the Committee on Resources is sending mail to committee members' districts touting the individual Member's accomplishments on that committee. Mailed under the chairman's frank, these laudatory mail pieces are sent out as Committee on Resources reports.

But listen to what they say: "Members of Arizona's congressional delegation are making a difference for Arizonians every day through their work on the House Committee on Resources. Arizona is fortunate to have Congressmen RICK RENZI, J.D. HAYWORTH, JEFF FLAKE and RAÚL GRIJALVA on these important issues."

It goes on to read, "Committee members RENZI, HAYWORTH and FLAKE supported the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, which provides resource managers with the tools they need to combat the dangers of overstocked forests."

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have four of these committee mailings submitted for the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

The committee mailings are as follows:

RESOURCES COMMITTEE FIELD HEARING

What is the impact of the Endangered Species Act on southeast New Mexico? It's your chance to learn more.

What: Examining the Impacts of the Endangered Species Act on Southern New Mexico.

When: Monday, June 7th, 2004 at 9 a.m.

Where: Pecos River Village, Carousel Building, 701 Muscatel Avenue, Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Learn About the Impact of the Endangered Species Act on Southeast New Mexico.

Congressman Steve Pearce Represents the 2nd District of New Mexico. After a very successful hearing on the impact of the endangered silvery minnow last year in Belen, NM, Congressman Steve Pearce has asked the Resources Committee to learn about the impact of endangered species legislation on jobs and lifestyle in southeast New Mexico.

Congressman Pombo is Chairman of the House Resources Committee. Join Congressman Pearce and Congressman Pombo in Carlsbad on June 7th where they will hear first-hand from family farmers, ranchers, irrigation providers, oil and gas producers and local governments about how the Endangered Species Act has brought pain and suffering to their communities and families. The Resources Committee welcomes the opportunity to travel to New Mexico to personally visit with people who are directly affected by this outdated, onerous and unreasonable policy.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT ON HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT

America's National Forests have become unnaturally dense, diseased, and insect infested, leaving them incredibly susceptible to catastrophic wildfire. To date, wildfires have burned over three million acres in the United States in 2003. These fires not only destroy forests, they kill wildlife and pollute air and water alike.

California has had more than its fair share of wildfire disasters. The House Resources Committee and its members are committed to protecting our environment from the devastating effects of catastrophic forest fires.

This report is meant to update you on what the Resources Committee and your California Representatives are working on to help keep our forests healthy and keep fires from destroying forests, property, and jobs.

RICHARD POMBO,

House Resources Committee Chairman.

"The Resources Committee and its members are charged with the responsibility of coordinating federal efforts to encourage, enhance and improve programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources within our Public Forest areas. I am honored to have such dedicated and knowledgeable committee members to work with as we work to balance resource preservation and usage. I am particularly honored to work with California Congressmen in efforts to prevent further forest fires from devastating California's incredible resources and beauty. Together we will continue to work on the issues affecting California and the West."—Richard Pombo

RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK VALUABLE TO CALIFORNIA

Members of California's Congressional Delegation are making a difference for Californians every day through their work on the House Resources Committee. The Resources Committee deals with issues such as wildfire prevention, water rights, environmental protection, and land use. California is fortunate to have so many able men and women on this committee to work on these important issues.

CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMEN HELP PASS "HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT"

Committee Members Baca, Miller, Cardoza, Radanovich, Dooley, Nunes, Gallegly and Calvert supported this bill, which provides resource managers with the tools they need to combat the dangers of overstocked forests.

The "Healthy Forests Restoration Act" establishes streamlined procedures to increase use of scientifically-proven management techniques of thinning and prescribed burning to avoid catastrophes to our forests, homes and water supply.

Additionally, the Act calls for additional open public meetings on all projects that fall under the Healthy Forests legislation, providing an opportunity for public input over-and-beyond current public hearing requirements.

And this landmark legislation makes for better forest management and helps protect communities from the dangers of uncontrolled wildfires.

It protects the rights of private landowners.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REFORM

As you may know, the application of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has caused economic hardship and to farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and individuals—and it has done little to actually protect endangered species of animals.

The law has become more powerful than Congress ever intended it to be. It has been